

S. African police kill 3 protesters

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police fired Monday on black protesters in two townships, killing two and injuring hundreds, a hospital worker said. Fifteen blacks also were killed in weekend factional fighting, according to police and press reports. Police used tear gas and shotguns to disperse several thousand black protesters in Sharpeville and Sebokeng, witnesses said. The townships are south of Johannesburg, about 10 kilometres apart. In Sebokeng, the protesters threw a petrol station and set fire to the municipal buildings, police said. At least two blacks were killed and hundreds injured in the clash, said a nurse at Sebokeng Hospital who refused to give her name. No injuries were reported in Sharpeville. The demonstrators were protesting racist, housing conditions and working conditions, witnesses said. Police, meanwhile, said they expect that African National Congress guerrillas fired two rocket-propelled grenades Sunday night at town council offices in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg. The two Soviet-made grenades caused some damage, but police said there were no injuries.

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Nasser's widow laid to rest

CAIRO (R) — Thousands of Egyptians led by President Hosni Mubarak paid last respects Monday to the widow of Egypt's late revolutionary leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. Nasser, 66, died of heart failure at home Sunday, mourned by his family but with her eldest son absent, forced to stay abroad by charges carrying the death penalty. Nasser's eldest son Khaled, a 39-year-old engineer in self-exile in Europe, is one of 20 people on trial for involvement in a revolutionary group accused of killing and injuring several Israeli and U.S. diplomats in attacks between 1984 and 1987. He is being tried in absentia. His mother was laid to rest at the Gamal Abdel Nasser Mosque in Cairo's district of Bab Al Qubba where the late leader's body was laid after his death in 1970. Mubarak, ministers, diplomats and dignitaries walked solemnly for about 100 metres behind pall-bearers carrying the green-draped coffin, preceded by wreaths of flowers. Family members, including Nasser's sons Abdul Hamid and Abdul Hakim, stood in line to receive condolences.

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Ramadan starts today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Muhallan Monday night announced that Monday, March 26 was the last day of the month of Shaaban and Tuesday, March 27 marks the beginning of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Arab panel seeks aid for Hrawi

ALGIERS (R) — Arab mediators are trying to mobilise financial and military aid to help Lebanese President Elias Hrawi oust rebel General Michel Aoun and rebuild the war-ravaged country, Algeria's foreign minister said. An Arab committee, comprising Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco and charged with trying to end Lebanon's civil war, was due to meet shortly to discuss aid to Hrawi, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali said Sunday night. "In addition to (existing) political support we are trying to mobilise on both Arab and international levels for this support to continue, and that it be coupled with material support," he told Reuters and the Paris-based Radin Beur.

U.N. chief seeks Sahara plebiscite

RABAT (AP) — U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, ending a two-day visit to Morocco, indicated he would like to organise a referendum on the Western Sahara as soon as possible. He was to start a visit to refugee camps in the territory Monday. "If it were up to me, I would be ready to organise it tomorrow," the U.N. secretary-general said Sunday before leaving Morocco for Algeria, then the Western Sahara. "But the complicated task must be handled step by step, (both) with prudence and without stopping. A referendum is not something which is organised in 24 hours or 24 months."

8 Israelis on trial for meeting PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Eight Israelis charged with meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) appeared for a delay when their trial opened Monday, hoping the Labour Party would take power and repeal the law. However, the Ramle magistrate's court rejected the plea, which would have postponed a trial that had been delayed three times already. The group of eight plus far-left Israeli parliamentarian Chaim Eilenz Schach met representatives of the PLO in Budapest in June 1987. After a three-hour meeting, Eilenz Schach endorsed an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Biton was not charged because he has parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

Britons arrested in S. Arabia freed

BAHRAIN (R) — Two Britons arrested in Saudi Arabia Saturday on suspicion of spying have been released but may still be charged, a spokesman for the British embassy in Riyadh said Monday. The spokesman said by telephone that David Wilson, a nurse, and P.J. Wiseman, who both work for the state-owned oil firm Saudi Aramco, were released Monday morning. "We are in touch with the authorities about the arrests — both people have been released but we do not know yet whether they will be charged," the spokesman said. The London Sunday Times said the two men were arrested after allegedly filming oil installations in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia. They said they had gone into the desert to film unusual vegetation that appeared after heavy rainfall, the paper said.

Havel hospitalised

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel underwent a previously planned hernia operation Saturday, and is recovering normally, his spokesman said Monday. Spokesman Michael Zantovsky said Havel will stay in hospital about a week, and then need another week to convalesce.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Arafat. Rabbo in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Jordan, PLO reach initial agreement on boosting information cooperation

King receives Arafat message

By Mariam M. Shabbah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from PLO leader Yasser Arafat on the latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian issues and Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation.

The message was delivered to the King by Yasser Arafat Rabbo, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odah and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin.

Abed Rabbo, who is also head of the Department of Information of the PLO, is on an official visit to the Kingdom for talks on Jordan-PLO coordination on information.

(Continued on page 3)

Rabbi deals blow to Peres

TEL AVIV (R) — A 96-year-old Rabbi harshly criticised secular Jews Monday in a rare public sermon that may have doomed Labour Party leader Shimon Peres's bid to become Israel's next prime minister. Rabbi Eilenz Schach, who controls eight parliamentary seats and the balance of power in Israeli politics, spoke to 10,000 black-clad followers who paid up to \$50 each to hear him. Israeli Television and radio broadcast Schach's 25-minute address in Hebrew and Yiddish, delivered in a large basketball stadium, and interviewed a host of analysts who tried to interpret his message. The rabbi, traditionally dovish on political affairs, accused

Labour and its leftist allies of abandoning Jewish religious traditions and education. Labour was hoping that Degel Hatorah and Shas, the religious parties linked to Schach, would join its secular allies in a Labour-led coalition committed to the first-ever Israel-Palestinian peace talks. But politicians from the two religious parties said Schach had not changed his view and still favoured a broad coalition government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the rightist Likud party. "There were more than hints that we should go with Likud, but also that Likud should make great efforts to establish a broad government, invite Labour and

go together," Degel Hatorah parliamentarian Rabbi Avraham Ravitz told reporters. Likud's Labour and Welfare Minister Ronni Milin said the speech clearly endorsed Shamir over Peres. Parliamentarians from the six-member Shas and two-member Degel Hatorah said that they would vote together for the next Israeli prime minister. Both parties have recommended that Shamir should form the next government. Degel Hatorah set aside part of a Jerusalem convention centre on Tuesday for a day of interpreting the words of the white-haired rabbi, whose passion for peace has been matched only by his devotion to Likud.

Moscow refuses to pull out troops from Lithuania

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet military chiefs refused to withdraw paratroopers from key Lithuanian centres Monday as rebel leaders reported inconclusive talks on the Baltic state's independence bid. With separation deepening in the Baltic republics and renewed violence in Soviet Transcaucasia, the Kremlin deployed the troops as part of tough measures aimed at bringing Lithuania back into the Soviet fold. At least 12 people were reported killed in four days of ethnic clashes in the southern trouble spots of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

But Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's greatest challenge loomed in the country's rebellious north. Following in Lithuania's footsteps, Estonia's Communist party at a special congress in the capital Tallinn approved plans Sunday for a formal break with the Moscow Party after a six-month transition period. Elite combat troops armed with assault rifles seized public buildings in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius over the weekend including the city's communist party headquarters. But Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in the Nigerian capital Lagos Monday,

ruled out military force against secessionist Lithuania or other republics. "Dialogue is our weapon, at home and abroad," he said. After talks with Soviet military officials in Moscow, Lithuanian officials said the talks marked a turning point in the tense standoff but were inconclusive. "After coming out of this meeting, I can say the mood has changed," said Deputy Premier Romualdas Ozolas. "It is evident the conflict will not be escalated."

Visiting U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy said Gorbachev assured him the Kremlin would not use force in Lithuania unless peoples' lives appeared threatened. The brother of former U.S. President John Kennedy spent 90 minutes with Gorbachev talking mainly about Lithuania's bid for independence. "President Gorbachev indicated to me that the position of the Soviet Union was that there would be no use of force unless the lives of others were threatened, and that he was committed to a peaceful resolution," Kennedy told a Moscow news conference. The meeting of Soviet military commanders and Lithuanian officials focused on the military

occupation of three Communist party buildings in Vilnius over the weekend. The White House said that U.S.-Soviet relations could be damaged by "further actions" by Moscow in Lithuania and said it was unhappy that Soviet troops had seized buildings in the republic. "Further actions will not lead to lessening of tensions and could have adverse international repercussions and could be counterproductive to U.S.-Soviet relationships," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. For days, Gorbachev and other Moscow officials have squeezed the defiant Baltic state with displays of military strength and demands of fealty. Gorbachev ordered Lithuanians to surrender all firearms and told them not to sign up for volunteer units under the republic's government. The official news media has sought to portray Lithuania as in a state of anarchy. At the same time, Soviet leaders have repeatedly said they will not use force in their bid to prevent Lithuanians from trying to restore the independence they lost in 1940 when their republic was forcibly annexed along with the two other Baltic states — Latvia and Estonia.

Arab League, OIC assail U.S. Senate resolution

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Arab and Islamic states Monday condemned an American Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel," and a Palestinian leader called for an Arab-Islamic summit to discuss the issue.

In a statement issued in Tunis, the Arab League Council, after a meeting at ambassadorial level, said the Senate resolution, which was adopted Thursday, was "contrary to the provisions of international law, of the United Nations Charter."

"It does not serve peace at the present juncture. On the contrary it amounts to an obstacle to the peace process and encourages Israel to continue its inhumane oppression of Palestinian citizens," it added. The U.S. Senate passed a non-binding resolution last week supporting Israel's claim that Jerusalem should not be divided and remain Israel's capital.

American administrations have not acknowledged the Israeli claim, saying the city's future was

subject to negotiation. In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Monday denounced the U.S. Senate resolution, but expressed appreciation for the reaffirmation by President George Bush of the reality and intangibility of the legal status of the Holy City.

"The OIC strongly denounces the passing by the United States Senate of this resolution which is a deliberate attempt to reinforce the stands of the opponents of peace," said the statement issued by OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid.

He said the organisation "took note with satisfaction" of the subsequent statement by Bush, and urged his administration to pursue its ongoing efforts to find a just and lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem.

It called on its member states and the international community to work for placing the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, under international control until a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement is reached.

The organisation said it learnt with "surprise and incredulity, of

the Senate's resolution which it considered the more surprising because it was adopted by an institution which for centuries made justice and right the cornerstone of its actions."

"This resolution represents a real challenge to the people of the Islamic Nation who are profoundly attached to their religious feelings for the holy city which remains to be one of the holiest shrines of Islam," the statement said.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said the U.S. Senate's view was very serious and an Arab-Islamic summit should be convened.

"The resolution is very serious and violates international law and Palestinian human rights," Abdul Razak Al Yahia, a member of the PLO executive committee, told the Qatari News Agency.

"An Arab-Islamic summit should be convened to discuss this serious matter and take a united stand on it," said Yahia before leaving Doha after a four-day visit.

Iraq said the U.S. Senate resolution was a challenge to all (Continued on page 5)

Arabs defend Iraq against criticism

TUNIS (R) — Arab states said Monday they fully supported Iraq against Western criticism of its execution of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft after conviction on spying charges.

"The Council (of the Arab League) proclaims its complete solidarity with Iraq in the defence of its sovereignty and national security," said a statement issued after a meeting of Arab ambassadors in Tunis.

"The spy Farzad Bazoft (was) convicted for spying for foreign secret services, as established by his confessions to Iraqi justice, after a trial which conformed to internationally recognised legal rules," it added.

Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist working for the British Sunday newspaper the Observer, was hanged in Baghdad March 15.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher recalled Britain's ambassador to Baghdad. Iraq had called for the Monday meeting to muster Arab support for its position.

The Arab states accused Britain of conducting an iniquitous campaign against Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs and they regretted that some European Community states had joined the campaign.

"This campaign in no way serves Arab-European relations, which the Arab states are keen to develop in the framework of mutual respect, the sovereignty of the two parties and non-interference in internal affairs," it added.

In a cautious speech opening the meeting, Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said Iraq had merely exercised its right to apply the law, as any other state would do, but the affair should not damage relations with Europe.

Klibi said: "Those who took part in the political and media campaign against Iraq... forgot that Iraq still feels, and justly, that it is in a state of war with Iran and that it has the right to defend its security and national interests."

"At the same time, the Arab states are keen to preserve Arab-European relations from any deterioration which Israel may be planning for them," he added. He referred to the journalist's self-confessed links with the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

He suggested the affair was a trap to damage relations with Europe.

Moves under way to settle rift in uprising leadership

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A hardline Palestinian faction Monday openly challenged the underground leadership of the uprising by staging a wildcat strike.

The strike, protesting the anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, was the latest act of defiance by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

In two recent leaflets, the PFLP accused the three other factions in the leadership coalition of softening in the struggle against Israeli occupation and called for rejection of the U.S.-backed plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Palestinian activists who insisted on anonymity said contacts were under way to resolve the feud within the underground leadership, which groups the PFLP with the Fatah faction, the Palestine Communist Party and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"This is not the first time there have been differences, and we were able in the past to surmount them," one Fatah activist said.

Still, he acknowledged, the rift comes at a time when "coordination is of utmost importance in

maintaining the uprising." Rising concern about the PFLP's tactics prompted a rare rebuke from the other Palestinian leadership groups, including the dominant Fatah faction.

A two-page letter, made available to the Associated Press, criticises the PFLP for actions that "help nobody but the enemies."

It also charged that allowing disputes to break into the open "will not help solve the problem but will lead to a civil war." The PFLP strike closed stores and offices in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and neighbouring villages of Beit Jala and Beit Sahour.

Sluggs on walls, signed by the PFLP and fundamentalist Islamic Jihad, called for burying the Camp David accords. The accords led to the Israel-Egypt treaty signed March 26, 1979.

Ironically, the strike occurred as stores and businesses elsewhere in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were allowed to remain open for a full eight hours in advance of Ramadan.

Past disputes on goals and tactics already have splintered the uprising leadership.

The Muslim fundamentalist

Press boycotts Lower House

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian correspondents of local, foreign and international publications boycotted Monday's session of the Lower House of Parliament in protest against attacks by some deputies against the local press for publishing part of the secret discussions the House held last week on corruption and financial mismanagement.

Therefore, all Jordanian newspapers have decided not to cover the deliberations of the House Monday.

The unwarranted attack by some deputies against the press also prompted Jordanian journalists to boycott Tuesday's session of the House.

East German SPD leader quits; old guards escape treason charge

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Social Democrat (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme, a key figure in East Germany's fledgling democracy, stepped down temporarily Monday in protest against allegations that he spied for the security police.

At the same time East Germany's state prosecution service said it was dropping treason charges against disgraced former Communist leader Erich Honecker and three of his top aides — allowing one of them to go free.

Monday's events underline how much East Germany is still in thrall to its Stalinist past, despite the peaceful revolution last year that ended 40 years of hard-line rule.

Boehme continued to deny allegations he was an informer for the Stasi secret police but said Monday he would temporarily leave his post until the allegations have been dismissed.

Boehme, whose party finished a distant second in East Germany's first free election March 18, is the latest of several politicians to come under suspicion of having helped the Stasi.

Lothar de Maiziere, the likely new premier whose Christian Democratic Union won the election, has strongly denied similar allegations.

The swirl of allegations is stalling efforts to form East Ger-

many's first democratically elected government and has overshadowed the country's first week as a democracy.

Boehme said he was temporarily leaving the chairmanship of the SPD to his deputy, Markus Meckel.

The ousted Communist government used the 85,000-member Stasi force to suppress dissent and kept tight control over East German society. The force also had more than 100,000 informers and kept files on six million citizens in a population of just over 16 million.

Meanwhile, the official ADN news agency quoted the prosecutor general's office as saying charges of high treason could not be sustained against the ailing Honecker and his aides. But investigations into other crimes would continue.

The aides involved were former Stasi Minister Erich Mielke, economics supremo Guenter Mittag and propaganda chief Joachim Herrmann.

"In the prosecutor general's investigations the suspicion of high treason or anti-constitutional activities... could not be confirmed," ADN quoted the prosecution service as saying.

ADN said Honecker, Mittag and Mielke were still under investigation for embezzling state funds to build personal houses,

financial breach of trust and using state aircraft for private flights.

But Herrmann, who controlled the East German media with an iron fist, was facing only treason charges. The prosecutor general ordered Herrmann's release from investigative custody and the entire case to be dropped.

It seemed a marked change of tone from last January when Prosecutor General Hans-Juergen Joseph told parliament they would stand trial for treason, describing them as parasites who extended "indescribable arrogance."

The decision is likely to prompt popular outrage, still very much alive four months after the revolution.

At the weekend villagers vented 40 years of frustration and pent-up hatred on Honecker when he was moved to a government guest house in the country from a Protestant pastor's home where he had been convalescing after cancer surgery.

Banging on the roof of his car and hurling abuse, the protesters forced Honecker and his wife Margot to return to the pastor's home at Lobetal north of Berlin.

Officials now want to transfer Honecker, 77, to a Soviet army sanatorium in East Germany where he would be shielded from the wrath of the people he ruled for 18 years.

Kabul plans new broad-based 'peace front' for future coalition

KABUL (Agencies) — Exiled King Zahir Shah will be invited to return to Kabul shortly to attend the founding congress of a broad-based "peace front," a senior member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) said.

Farid Ahmad Muzdak, a member of the 15-man PDPA politburo, told foreign reporters Sunday the deposed monarch would be asked to attend the congress along with Afghan political, social and religious leaders including others living in exile.

The peace front is the latest attempt by the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah to seek a negotiated end to Afghanistan's 11-year-old civil war.

"The peace front will be the basis for a future coalition government," Muzdak said, emphasizing that the new grouping would not simply be the PDPA masquerading under another name.

He said it would include nine political parties and five social organizations, although he conceded it would have a credibility problem.

"The front will have a long way to go to draw people's trust," he said.

The peace front replaces the National Front the PDPA set up three years ago, but which most Afghans saw as merely a tool of the ruling party.

Muzdak, acting chairman of National Front, said the new front congress would be held within four months.

King Zahir Shah, deposed in 1973 and now living in Italy, is

seen as possible compromise leader between Najibullah and the Mujahideen Islamic rebels fighting to oust him.

Diplomats in Kabul said Zahir Shah was unlikely to accept the invitation to attend the meeting, nor would the Mujahideen leaders based in Iran and Pakistan.

The rebels, who have attacked several major cities in the past week at the start of their annual spring offensive, have refused to start peace talks until Najibullah steps down.

The Mujahideen, who have set up their own interim government based in Pakistan, blame the former secret police chief, his PDPA and its Soviet backers for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Afghans.

Muzdak said headline guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and renegade former Defence Minister Shanawaz Tanai would not be invited to attend the front congress.

Tanai allied himself with Hekmatyar after failing to oust Najibullah in a coup on March 6.

In a series of other reforms similar to those sweeping Eastern Europe, Najibullah has called for the convening of a PDPA congress to change the party's name, formally renounce its monopoly on power, embrace private enterprise and multi-party democracy, and elect new leaders.

One senior party official who asked not to be named said the president had also ordered the party to dismantle its cells in government offices, which give it enormous power over the state apparatus.

The government is also calling a "Loya Jirga," or traditional grand assembly, to ratify sweeping changes to banking and investment laws, including one that will allow foreign companies to wholly own Afghan projects.

Muzdak said the Loya Jirga would probably take place in May, to be followed first by the peace front congress in June and then by the PDPA meeting.

3 rebel commanders killed

In a separate development, gunmen killed three Afghan rebel commanders and three bodyguards Sunday near the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar, rebel sources said.

The men belonged to the Harakat Inqilab-I-Islami guerrilla party of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, one of six groups forming the Pakistan-based rebel government fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Among the dead were Mohammad Nasseeh Akhundzada, Harakat commander for the southern province of Helmand, Maulvi Jamadar of the northern province of Jozjan, and Mullah Ahmad Akhundzada, commander for Band Katakai area of Helmand.

They were travelling by jeep from Peshawar to the Harakat camp at Cherat in the east when gunmen opened fire, killing them instantly.

There was no immediate word about the identity of the attackers, but the sources said they could be from a rival rebel group. Several Western-backed Afghan guerrilla commanders have been killed by rival groups during the 11-year-old Afghan war.

Meanwhile, Afghan and Western sources said Akhundzada's list of enemies was a long one.

One diplomat said "it got to be a long list very quickly," when he tried to identify those people who wanted to kill Akhundzada.

The rogue commander also had a long-standing feud with a rival rebel group, Hezb-I-Islami, led by Hekmatyar.

"He was the dead enemy of Hezb," said one Afghan guerrilla leader, who asked not to be identified. "He threw almost all Hezb people out of Helmand province."

"He was a strong, traditional Mullah," said Hamid Karzai, a rebel spokesman. "He was one of Harakat's strongest and most powerful commanders."

Last year Akhundzada waged a bloody drug war in Helmand province against a rival commander, who belonged to Rasul Sayyaf's fundamentalist Irtihad-Islami unity guerrilla party.

The turf battle reportedly left scores dead and Sayyaf's commander eventually abandoned the guerrillas and joined the government.

Akhundzada's death came five days after one of Sayyaf's field commanders, Painsa Mohammad, was killed outside Peshawar, said Qaribur Saeed, a spokesman for Hekmatyar's party.

Poland offers safe transport of Jewish immigrants

NEW YORK (R) — Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has offered to help Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel and a government official said Poland was ready to provide safe transport from Warsaw to Tel Aviv.

Mazowiecki was speaking to the American Jewish Congress in New York two days after Hungary's state-owned Malev airlines announced it was stopping charter flights to Israel because of threats from a radical Palestinian guerrilla group.

"Just as in the Middle Ages, Poland gave refuge to Jews fleeing persecution, so today Poland will not evade humanitarian assistance to Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union," he said.

Mazowiecki did not elaborate on the offer of assistance, but his aide said that if asked, Poland would provide safe transport to Israel for Soviet Jews.

Poland's borders would be open to any Jews wishing to leave the Soviet Union, spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska added.

"We are not going to reject transit of Russian Jews to Israel. The prime minister made a commitment to help Russian Jews but at this point there are no details," Niezabitowska said.

The offer was a response to Malev's cancellation of the charter flights because of threats from the radical Lebanon-based Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

The Hungarian government said Saturday it understood the airline's safety concerns but "regretted to hear about the decision which it considered an encouragement to international terrorism."

Arabs fear the Soviet Jews will be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians engaged in an anti-Israeli uprising hope to set up an independent state.

Mazowiecki told some 500 members of the American Jewish Congress that it was important for Poles to "make a breakthrough" in their nearly 1,000-year-old relationship with Jews.

He said that after 50 years of totalitarian rule, Poland's new government wanted to reconcile itself with Jews of Polish descent around the world.

"We condemn anti-Semitism and we regret any attention to fostering hatred against the Jews," he said. "My country to all of you is hospitable and friendly."

In Warsaw an official from the state-owned LOT airline said his company was considering a request to fly emigrating Soviet Jews from Poland to Israel. A decision would be taken quickly.

He refused to say who had approached LOT.

The official said good results on its regular service to Tel Aviv had prompted LOT earlier this month to raise its number of flights from Warsaw to two a week. The Israeli Airline El Al also runs two flights a week.

The official also said LOT was considering setting up more regular connections rather than waiting for charter orders.

In Budapest, Malev insisted Monday it would not reverse its decision to stop transporting Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel.

Hungarian Agriculture Minister Csabi Hutter told Reuters in Tel Aviv Sunday the government opposed the ban.

"I expect no difficulty with the resumption of charter flights for immigrants from the Soviet Union via Hungary to Israel," Hutter said. He described the suspension as temporary.

Egypt's religious leaders meet to defuse feared sectarian strife

CAIRO (AP) — Religious leaders met Monday in an effort to defuse feared sectarian strife after a number of attacks by Muslim extremists on Coptic Christians in southern Egypt. The government said it will crack down harshly on troublemakers.

Interior Minister Abdul Hakim Moussa told parliament that 216 Muslims and Coptic Christians were detained after the anti-Christian attacks this month in Al Minya province in southern Egypt.

The detentions brought to more than 700 the number of people in preventive custody under a 1981 emergency law, Moussa told the Peoples Assembly Sunday.

"We meet after our country was affected by a transient incident perpetrated by some ignorant people," Mohammed Ali Mahgoub, minister of religious endowments, told a group of Muslim and Coptic religious leaders.

The government must help dry the tears of those whose property and millions (of pounds) were burnt, although it will not be able to compensate them for the fear they lived through," Bishop Basil said.

He drew angry comments from Muslim sheiks in the audience when he charged that some Muslim religious leaders publicly accused Christians of being atheists. Basil also claimed that some Muslim children were taught to consider Christians their enemies. He urged that schools, mosques and churches teach the young to respect and love members of other religions.

The Coptic Church was founded in Egypt in the year 40 A.D. by Gospel writer St. Mark. Over the centuries, there have been scattered periods of strife between the Christian minority and Muslim majority in Egypt.

Of the nation's 35 million people, between 5 and 6 million are Christians.

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RJ increases its Amman-London flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline is now operating five weekly flights between London and Amman under the terms of an agreement concluded with British Airways (BA), an RJ statement announced Monday.

It said that the deal leaves the option open for RJ to operate a sixth weekly flight between the two cities during the summer time.

Originally RJ used to operate four trips between Amman and London while BA, which closed its offices due to a decline in business, used to operate three flights weekly.

BA has now stopped all flights from Amman to London and vice versa. According to airport officials, the last flight took off from Amman last Friday.

Under the agreement, RJ will act on behalf of BA on the

Amman-London route transporting passengers on behalf of the British carrier and will also maintain and service BA Tristar aircraft at its workshop located at the Queen Alia International Airport.

The statement said RJ will use its Airbus 300/310 planes which have a three class category on the Amman-London route.

RJ Sunday evening organised a special ceremony to mark the occasion. RJ and BA officials were among those attending.

In another development, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Monday announced that Cyprus Airlines will resume its flights to Amman following a break of five years.

A statement said that the Cyprus Airlines will operate three weekly flights to Amman as of June 1990. RJ has been operating three weekly flights to Cyprus.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday visits the Rashadieh cement plant (Petra photo)

Badran reassures south of firm resolve to provide assistance

TAFLEH (Petra) — On his third and final day of a tour of the southern regions of Karak, Tafleeh and Maan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday visited local factories and the Rashadieh cement plant in the Tafleeh governorate.

After touring the plant, Badran was briefed by the chairman of the board of directors about the factory's progress and future plans. He was told that 85 per cent of the workers in the plant came from the southern regions of Jordan, mainly from Tafleeh.

Badran who was accompanied by several ministers and senior officials had earlier toured the Maan and Karak governorates. During his Maan, Karak visit, he discussed in detail questions of concern to the southern regions, in particular the urgent economic assistance the government had pledged to drought-stricken areas.

At a public rally held in Tafleeh and attended by prominent public figures and local officials, Badran said that the JD 1.5 million aid from the Arab Potash Company and the Jordanian Phosphate Mines Company as well as the \$1 million made available by the government will be distributed equally to the three governorates.

He said that special committees will be set up immediately in order to determine the urgent needs in the three areas.

These committees, according to Badran, will be given extensive



Tafleeh residents and officials Monday attend a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members

powers to distribute funds.

The government assisted by the sincere efforts of the Jordanian people, is determined to overcome the present difficulties in the south," the prime minister told the gathering. He said that His Majesty King Hussein had issued directives to the government to do all it can to provide urgent assistance to the people of the south.

Following the meeting, the prime minister and the officials accompanying him visited bedouin tribes in Huweitat, Jafer and Hussein districts, where he heard residents' demands for improved services.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday that the prime minister was given working papers during his visit to Tafleeh. They requested government assistance in solving problems related to unemployment, agricul-

ture, water supply and an animal feed.

The paper was presented by Khalaf Mahameh, the Tafleeh governor. He said that local farmers were demanding repair of artesian wells, construction of dams to collect rain water and trucks to supply water for remote areas.

Residents also requested improved health services and a reevaluation of an agreement between the local councils and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment concerning the lighting of streets and road repair.

Ministers of social development, health, public works and housing, transport and telecommunications, education and higher education, water and irrigation, agriculture, municipal and rural affairs and the environment accompanied Badran on his tour.

Committee urges Jordan, Syria to launch joint construction projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Syrian committee has urged the two countries to launch joint construction projects and to give the opportunity to contractors in both countries to benefit from or participate in construction schemes carried out by either country.

The committee, which concluded a meeting in Damascus Sunday, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that agreement was reached on holding joint workshops. The committee also said that Jordan and Syria should exchange expertise in preparing programmes and training to improve the efficiency of employees, technicians and engineers in housing.

The committee was set up by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which met under the

chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries last January in Amman.

Jordan's side to the meeting was headed by Yousef Hiyasat, director-general of the Housing Corporation. He said the two sides discussed launching joint construction projects and cooperation in all matters related to construction, public works and housing.

"Ways to ensure the safety of the environment, to stem internal migration and to provide maintenance to public utilities in urban areas were among the topics discussed at the three-day meeting in Damascus," Hiyasat said.

He said the committee passed several measures designed to help the two sides achieve legislation integration governing construc-

tion and engineering consultancy. According to the committee's decision, Syria will try to benefit from a Jordanian plant which manufactures traffic lights and the Jordanian system of classifying contractors and engineering consultancy offices.

Hiyasat said that both sides agreed to treat contracting firms in Syria and Jordan on equal footing whenever possible and Syria will try to benefit from Jordan's experience in protecting the environment.

Hiyasat, who was accompanied by two officials from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, said that the committee decided to hold its next meeting in Amman in August 1990.

Ramadan message urges adherence to Islam

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Monday issued a statement addressed to all Muslims on the eve of the start of the holy month of Ramadan urging them to abide by the teachings of Islam and to respect its principles and religious laws. The statement urged Muslims to offer alms to the poor, offer sacrifice and behave properly.

"This is a holy month which requires from all Muslims to take stock of their conduct and behaviour, and it is a period for repressing lust and desire," the

statement said.

"Ramadan is a time for unity among Muslims, of true and genuine cooperation and closing of ranks that can help them liberate the usurped holy places from the Zionist occupation forces," the statement said.

The statement paid tribute to the Palestinians in the intifada for their heroic struggle to liberate the holy lands.

Government offices will open at 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Restaurants are not open in the daytime since fasting lasts from dawn to dusk.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King, UAE official meet

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Monday Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed, air force commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who conveyed to the King greetings from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. Attending the meeting were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and UAE ambassador to Jordan.

Kabarti meets Syrian officials

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti held talks with Syrian officials in charge of tourism affairs and discussed the prospect of launching joint programmes for marketing Jordan and Syria through of one system. Kabarti, who started a three-day visit to Syria Sunday, was briefed on Syria's tourism programmes and projects. He said later that agreement had been reached on holding a meeting of tourism officials from both countries public and private sectors to study prospects for future cooperation. Kabarti said he would meet with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi to deliver a message from Prime Minister Mudar Badran dealing with cooperation in tourism with the context of resolutions passed by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings.

Crime panel passes amendments

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Higher Committee for Combating Crime Monday approved amendments concerning the responsibilities of some of its members and the arrangements taken to convene a symposium entitled "Crime and Society" next July. The committee, in a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major-General Fadel Ali Field, discussed a report by the scientific committee on working papers to be presented in the symposium.

Awqaf ministry prepares lessons

AMMAN (Petra) — A religious programme for the month of Ramadan was prepared by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Preaching Department. The programme which includes religious lessons during the day and the shabour (pre-dawn meal) periods will be held at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and Al Hussein mosques. The ministry has requested from all its departments all over the Kingdom to prepare similar programmes to celebrate Ramadan.

Jordan marks theatre day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan marks Tuesday, along with other nations of the world, the international theatre day. The Ministry of Culture has prepared a programme of plays for adults and children, according to the ministry's Theatre Department Director Hatem Al Sayeed. He said that the ministry, in cooperation with local theatre groups in Amman and Irbid, had prepared several plays tackling problems of society.

JUST marks Jerusalem week

RAMTHA (Petra) — Student Scientific Societies and Student Affairs Deanship at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) held several activities to mark the Jerusalem week and Land Day. The activities included a concert by university's hands and reading poetry that praised the intifada and highlighted the status of Jerusalem for Muslims. In another development a seminar on the agricultural systems in Jordan was opened at JUST. The two-day seminar is organised by the university's Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with the National Centre for Agricultural Research and the Transfer of Technology.

Technical workshop begins

KARAK (Petra) — A technical workshop for the educational sector in Karak, Maan, Tafleeh, Aqaba, Al Mazar and Al Qasr was opened Monday in Karak. The workshop which is organised by the Ministry of Education aims at developing the participants' talents and acquainting them with the activities of such workshops. The two-day workshop was opened by Karak Education Department Director Hani Al Mahamid.

43 bakers graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 43 Jordanians Sunday graduated after completing a six-month course organised by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC). The graduation ceremony, which took place at the Yajouz training centre, was attended by VTC Director-General Burhan Al Shraideh.

Archaeologists trace million years of man in Jordan

By Alistair Lyon
Reporter

PELLA — The fertile hills around the ancient settlement of Pella are yielding traces of a million years of human activity in the Jordan Valley.

Archaeologists digging here for 12 years under the direction of professor Basil Hennessy of Sydney University have uncovered a record of human existence reaching back to Stone Age hunters and forward to Ottoman times, and most of the years in between.

"With this single site, we will eventually be able to rewrite the entire archaeological history of northern Jordan," said dig coordinator Alan Walmesley, also of Sydney University.

Pella, watered by a perennial stream, lies at about sea-level in the oase-forested foothills of the northern Jordan Valley, 90 kilometres northwest of Amman.

A popular picnic spot, especially when spring flowers carpet the hillsides, it once straddled ancient trade routes linking Arabia, India and China with Syria, Anatolia, Greece and Rome.

Villagers now graze flocks of sheep and goats among the remains of Roman, Byzantine and Islamic buildings that dot the slopes overlooking the Jordan River.

But the visible ruins, less spectacular than the ancient rock city of Petra in the south or the Greco-Roman town of Jerash to the east, tell only a fraction of Pella's story.

"The importance of Pella is that we are establishing a historical and occupational sequence of the site from the very earliest periods down to the Ottoman era," said Ghazi Bisheh, director of the Department of Antiquities.

He said the discovery of an Abbasid settlement at Pella could help to change a widely-

held view that Jordan declined in population and importance after the Abbasids defeated the Omayyad dynasty and transferred the capital of the Muslim empire from Damascus to Baghdad in the mid-eighth century A.D.

"There's now strong archaeological evidence that the decline was not as drastic or comprehensive as thought," he said.

Occupation at Pella moved slightly north of earlier sites after an earthquake in 747 A.D.

"It has given us the best collection of Abbasid pottery and glass in Jordan," said Australian archaeologist Margaret O'Hea.

"We have complete vessels dating from the 8th to the 10th centuries, as well as a city street and a courtyard."

The absence of earlier or later remains at the site, just one metre below the surface, allows precise dating.

"Several seasons of meticulous work at Pella have allowed notable advances in our knowledge of the ceramic typology of the Byzantine, Omayyad and Abbasid periods," Bisheh said.

Until geological changes culminating about 11,000 years ago, Pella lay by a giant lake known as Lisan of which the present-day Dead Sea and Lake Galilee were part, Walmesley said.

Stoos tools to slaughter animals were discovered at a camp used by hunter-gatherers near Pella around 17,500 B.C.

Basalt querns, mortars and pestles found near Pella point to agriculture emerging after the end of an Ice Age brought warmer temperatures. The 200-metre deep lake slowly receded due to evaporation and movements in the earth's crust.

Excavation of a settlement at Wadi Al Hammeh, two kilometres from Pella, has shown that people of the Natufian period around 10,000 B.C.

gathered wild barley and other plants, hunted gazelle, sheep and goats, and practised arts and crafts.

Their mudstone slabs engraved with concentric square motifs — prized finds for the Pella archaeologists — are among the earliest surviving "rock-art" from the prehistoric Near East.

By the 16th or 15th centuries B.C. Pella appears to have been a prosperous city, trading with Cyprus, Egypt and Syria. A beautifully carved ivory inlaid box from this period is among a range of cultural artefacts that include silver and jewellery, cosmetics in alabaster vessels, coach shells, stearite scarab signs, gold thread and bronze pins.

The city's fortunes ebbed and flowed until it was abandoned for more than two centuries after Persian rule from 539 to 332 B.C.

Cootemporary historians began referring to Pella again after Alexander the Great conquered the Middle East in 333 B.C. and it enjoyed fresh prosperity in the second and first centuries B.C., trading widely and minting its own currency.

It continued to expand under Roman rule in the first three hundred years after Christ and had a population of up to 25,000 in the Byzantine era in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D.

Decline linked with earthquakes, invasions and plague affected Pella before the Muslim army defeated the Byzantines at nearby Fihl in 635 A.D. and subdued the city peacefully.

Archaeological evidence indicates that a Christian minority coexisted with the Muslims for centuries after the Islamic conquest, but Pella gradually lost its importance as a trading centre and was abandoned some time during the 16th century A.D.

King

(Continued from page 1)

On Monday, the PLO delegation was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh and Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki in separate meetings.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Abed Rahbo described his talks in Amman, the first-ever Jordan-PLO dialogue on ministerial level, as "a new stage in Jordanian-PLO relations."

He said the new stage was made possible by Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank in July 1988, the resumption of parliamentary life in the Kingdom and the formation of the government of Mudar Badran.

"The dialogue affirms the disengagement decision and rectifies the negative aspects that initially accompanied the decision," Abed Rahbo, a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), told the Jordan Times.

He said his talks in Amman over the last two days had produced an initial agreement on four points of action in Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in the field of information:

— The development and production of a Hebrew-language television programme in coordination with the existing Hebrew-language news programme which would address and influence public opinion in Israel.

— Cooperation between Jordan and the PLO in television production, drama and theatre was also discussed in an effort to promote the Palestinian uprising.

— Efforts to televise educational programmes prepared by the Al Quds Open University and other university-level educational programmes in an attempt to aid those who have been deprived of university education during the 27-month-old intifada were also discussed.

— Cooperation in cultural events and the publication of leaflets and pamphlets promoting the intifada were also discussed. It was agreed that cooperation between the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Palestinian news agency WAFA would continue.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nababneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The spring exhibition of Bani Hamida women's weaving project at the Bani Hamida House - Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at Alia Art Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ Soviet video entitled "Geniuses of the Soviet Ballet" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Arabic film entitled "Kufar Qasem" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCING



Friday, March 23 to Thursday, March 29, 1990
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
at the Bani Hamida House

Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street
Tel: 658696/7

Save the Children Project

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Putting the cart before the horse

THE deputies' vehement attack yesterday on the press for publishing some details of last Tuesday's secret session of the Lower House of Parliament which tackled corruption and mismanagement is tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. It is a simple question, for the press could not have obtained the information had it not been through the cooperation of the legislators themselves. It may be ironic that the same House members who at one point worked hand-in-hand with Jordanian journalists towards securing freedom of the press are now accusing it of corruption. The deputies should be the first to realise that the Jordanian journalists are not willing to relinquish their hard-won freedom by accepting the legislature's dictates after struggling for so many years to win this freedom. In return, they should indeed know that we in the press do not deny the important role which the present House has played in the democratisation process, including winning democratic rights for the press as well. If anything, the legislators should be proud of the Jordanian press for the fact that it was living up to the expectations that go with our democratic march. It is bad enough that the press has to deal with human prejudices and self-centred egoism; nobody needs censorship from the very branch of the state which has shed so many tears over its "rubber stamp" decisions over the years. To cordon-off any part of the breathing space of the Jordanian press, at this juncture, is totally unjustifiable and counterproductive. No press worth its salt can honourably and faithfully perform the task expected by the public without sufficient leeway and sincere cooperation especially from our legislators.

Last our parliamentarians continue to misinterpret the crisis which they themselves have created and have only themselves to blame for it, the press revelations of the session's minutes in no Jordanian "Watergate" by any stretch of the mind. The deputies made the wrong decision in the first place when they voted to discuss the issue of corruption in camera. What ensued from that error of judgement must be borne by the House alone. Many deputies have already incurred the wrath of their constituents straight on the heels of the confusion that reigned supreme in the legislative debate on how to deal with corruption, a paramount item on the agenda.

In the ongoing scenario on the corruption debate, several deputies simply gave Jordanian people with one hand what they attempted to deny them with the second. And to shift the blame now on the press for this double-faced tactic would only jeopardise even the integrity of the entire House. It would have been much more honourable and fitting for the Parliament to just accept responsibility for the issue and refrain from passing the buck. This would be the only way for it to redeem part of the image it has lost over the affair.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Monday referred in its editorial to the prime minister's participation in open discussions on ways to introduce improvements in the condition of the people in the drought-stricken areas of Jordan. The paper said that Mudar Badran has expressed the government's ready response to the needs of the local inhabitants and proved that the credibility of the government had high marks. The paper said that the dialogue initiated by Badran with representatives of the three governorates of Tafleh, Maan and Karak reflected the deep responsibility which the government was shouldering towards these areas and its realisation of the plight of their people. It was like a meeting grouping these in government position and the ordinary people of the three regions who presented their demands and requests with confidence and with hope, said the paper. It added that the inhabitants of the south have showed a great degree of responsibility both in their discussions with the ministers and in their readiness to enhance cooperation with the local authorities for the implementation of projects benefiting their areas and their people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily reflects on the instances in which food supplies were found to be unfit for human consumption and seized and destroyed by the Ministry of Supply. Salah Abdul Samad says that the ordinary citizens have the right to ask about guarantees which the ministry can take to ensure a non-recurrence of such instances at any future time. The writer proposes the creation of an independent laboratory unit with full powers like those given to the judiciary, to conduct tests, reach decisions and publish findings in the press without any hesitation and without any influence by any party. He says this is one way of ensuring that all sample of food supplies offered to the public are safe for human consumption, and it is a sure way of avoiding imposition of fines and sanctions terms. The writer says that the ministry's work will be more efficient if it receives the laboratory test before anyone else, because it can lay its hands on the bad or contaminated foodstuffs and destroy them before reaching the market.

Al Dustour daily newspaper strongly attacked the U.S. Senate for passing a resolution supporting Israel's annexation of the holy city of Jerusalem, and said that the decision displayed the lack of senator wisdom and justice. The decision made a mockery of the American constitution which respects human rights and upholds sublime principles and human values, the paper added. The Senate's decision was immoral and reflects a total disregard to human values and contradicts American government resolutions and firm policy which considered the city as part of the occupied Arab territories. What is more shocking, the paper said, is that the Senate's decision came at a time when the Bush administration was striving to initiate fresh peace efforts to find a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, and therefore such decision can only result in doing harm to U.S. policies and U.S. interests. One can only interpret this action, it said, as a means to undermine the U.S. administration's efforts and impede all progress towards the establishment of a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Egypt-Syria: reconciliation after 12 year estrangement

By Martin Morris
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Talks in Libya between presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Al Assad of Syria have sealed the end of a 12-year rift, bringing diplomatic gains for both countries.

The one-hour meeting took place late Saturday during a ceremony at Tobruk marking the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of British forces from Libya.

The history of relations between Syria and Egypt is a stormy one. The two countries were joined for three years as the United Arab Republic with Gamal Abdul Nasser as head of state, but the union broke down in acrimony in 1961.

The rapprochement has been a long time in coming. Diplomatic relations were resumed last December. Ties had been broken a month after the late Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, flew to Jerusalem in 1977 to begin the process that led to the Camp David peace treaty two years later.

"In one sense, it's a defeat for Syria," said a Western diplomat in Damascus. Like other foreign observers, he attributed the move largely to Assad's desire to escape from diplomatic isolation after Egypt was readmitted to the Arab League last May and other Arab nations resumed diplomatic ties.

But the diplomat, who like other sources in Damascus insisted on anonymity, said the move also presented opportunities for the 59-year-old Syrian president to persuade fellow Arab leaders to follow his firm line toward Israel.

By meeting Mubarak, Assad has shown once again that he is a master of manoeuvre in the Arab World, limiting his losses by joining the Arab mainstream without abandoning his policies, diplomats said.

For Mubarak, the reconciliation with Assad is a big payoff for his cautious policy of acting as a go-between between Israel, the United States and the Palestinians on the one hand while working to improve Cairo's relations with other Arab countries on the other.

Syria is the most implacable

enemy of the Jewish state and Assad has vowed to continue building up his forces until he reaches strategic parity with Israel so the Arab World can negotiate from a position of strength.

But the Soviet Union, preoccupied with internal affairs and economic problems, has told Syria that the parity concept is no longer tenable and said Damascus, a major Soviet ally, should only purchase the weapons it needs for its defensive needs.

Syrian and Soviet military leaders have agreed to the withdrawal from Syria of an undisclosed number of Soviet military instructors, an informed Syrian source said.

Meanwhile, ties between the Soviet Union and Israel have slowly improved. The two countries have set up modest representation in each others capitals and are exchanging low-level visits.

Earlier this month Assad expressed his dismay, saying the changes sweeping East Europe were a boon to Israel as the

formerly Communist countries dropped their hostility to the Jewish state.

Syria is at odds with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat and has rejected his peace initiative towards Israel, which is strongly backed by Egypt and the United States.

There is no sign yet that Assad is cutting support for Damascus-based, anti-Arafat Palestinian factions.

But Assad appears to want inclusion, at least indirectly, in

the current process involving Egypt, the PLO, the United States and Israel aimed at holding elections for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said after a meeting with Assad earlier this month that Syria is ready for bilateral talks with Israel if they include the Golan Heights.

Egyptian officials in Cairo said they expect solid, but not too close, relations with Syria in view of Egypt's close ties with Iraq, Syria's arch-rival in the Arab World, as well as Mubarak's customary caution.

A meeting between the two leaders after December's resumption of diplomatic ties was originally expected to take place in Syria. There were several Syrian reports of an imminent Damascus meeting. But Mubarak never showed up, perhaps unwilling to be seen as knocking on Assad's door, perhaps fearing resentment by Iraq.

Diplomats in Damascus said the Egyptian president would like to act as a matchmaker between Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. But given the deep hostility between two of the Arab World's most ruthless and ambitious leaders, there were no signs that there will be an opportunity for reconciliation.

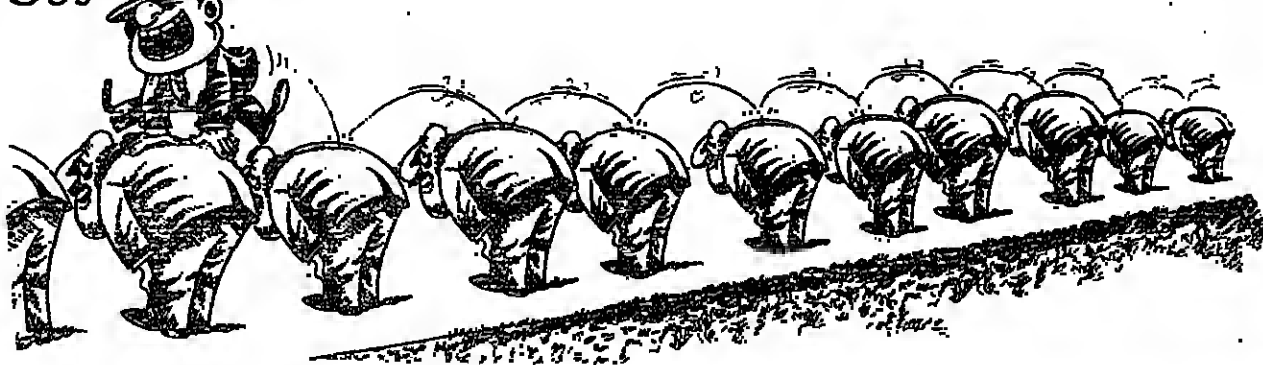
Intensifying the feud between the Iraqi and Syrian wings of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, ruling in both countries, Baghdad has supplied weapons to Lebanon's anti-Syrian Christian leader, Gen. Michel Aoun.

Syria was the only major Arab country to side with Persian Iran in its war against Arab Iraq.

THE 80's



THE 90's



Dangers await South Africa

By Rodney Pinder
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Dramatic political reforms and freedom for Namibia have set South Africa sailing with a fair international wind for the first time in decades, but treacherous shoals lie directly ahead.

Time is on no one's side as whites and blacks try to navigate to safety, but deep distrust between them militates against easy or quick solutions, political analysts say.

White President F.W. de Klerk has set a swift course of change, achieving in months what sceptics doubted would be done in years. But the very speed has raised black expectations and white nervousness, threatening the reformist leader with trouble from the white right if he maintains his stunning pace or the black left if he slows down to consolidate his gains.

At the same time, the African National Congress (ANC) of Nelson Mandela, newly released from a 30-year banning order, must obtain more for its hungry, long subjugated supporters — and, as the party aspires to power, demonstrate it can command and control a fractious and often violent opposition movement.

The run-up to the opening on April 11 of exploratory talks between de Klerk and the ANC sees the white South African government basking in an unaccustomed glow of world approval for releasing its grip on Namibia, a colony for 75 years, for freeing Mandela after 27 years in jail, and for lifting bans on the ANC and other proscribed black and left-wing organisations.

"There is no doubt we have come in from the cold," declared a senior government official after a host of world leaders, led by the U.S., Soviet, West German, Japanese and British foreign ministers beat an unprecedented path to South Africa's doorstep last week to celebrate Namibia's independence.

But if South Africa, for 40 years an international pariah because of its apartheid racial policies, is to capitalise on these gains de Klerk must begin to deliver on his promises of irreversible, fundamental change, the analysts say.

Black opposition groups and many of their sympathisers at home and abroad remain deeply suspicious that the ruling National Party has in fact decided to legislate itself and the white people it represents out of power after 200 years.

Veteran black activist Dr. Nthato Motlana, a close friend of Mandela's, told Reuters he remains deeply distrustful of the

white government's true intentions.

"The South African situation is not irreversible. There can still be backsliding. The Rubicon can be crossed again and again," he said.

The point of no return would only come, he said, when blacks shared power with whites in a transitional government to prepare for a one-man, one-vote majority rule democracy, and the ANC guerrillas had been integrated into the white army.

"I don't see this happening now," he said. "I don't see the Afrikaners having made the big leap that separates them from a non-racial democracy."

Government talk of "group rights" enshrined in a new constitution to protect minorities is seen by many blacks as merely a cover for continued white privilege and economic supremacy. "Group rights is completely unacceptable," Motlana declared.

From his clinic in the restive black township of Soweto, the physician and community leader predicted that on April 11 the ANC would insist that before substantive peace negotiations could begin the government must lift a three-year state of emergency, which invests the white-led security forces with draconian powers, and free all remaining political prisoners.

However, analysts said de Klerk may already be too far out in front of his own white constituency and must proceed with caution if he is not to risk his own power base.

A significant minority of whites opposes de Klerk's reforms outright while others — their numbers impossible at this stage to determine — say he has gone too far too fast with the only response from blacks being Oliver Twist-like requests for more.

A rising tide of violence across the country, pitting black faction against black, and occasionally black against white, has deeply disturbed many whites, by no means all conservatives.

They point to fruitless appeals for peace from Mandela, the icon of black nationalism, and question how much the ANC, the biggest opposition grouping, is in control of events.

Tribal warfare has scarred too many young, independent black nations for white South Africans' tastes.

"De Klerk's position is a great deal more precarious than people realise, with white politics on the crest of a backlash and in black politics serious doubts about the ANC's ability to deliver a deal," said independent political analyst Robert Schrine of Cape Town University.

"We may look back in a year or so to this being the time of false euphoria."

Reaching into people's lives

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuters

EAST BERLIN — If some East Germans elected to parliament last Sunday were once informers for the state security police, they belonged to a club so huge and secret its members slipped unwittingly on each other.

The Stasi, as the force of 85,000 was unofficially known, ran a network of at least 109,000 informers, stool-pigeons and snooters who contributed to computer files on five million out of East Germany's 12 million adults.

An ex-Stasi colonel has estimated "the firm", an insiders knew it, had more than one million informers and aspired to have files on the entire population.

Former Stasi officers and Western newspapers have alleged many top politicians, including the leaders of the Christian

Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD), were informers.

But CDU chief Lothar de Maiziere, likely prime minister after his party swept to victory in the poll, and SPD leader Ibrahim Boehme have strongly denied Stasi links.

Stasi agents systematically opened mail, eavesdropped on telephone calls, recorded, filmed, burgled and blackmailed in a demented hunt for enemies of the communist party.

"The sword and shield" of the party was one of East Germany's biggest employers and its second armed force, with a huge arsenal under the command of 27 generals.

With 2,000 buildings across the country, it could place human or electronic eyes and ears almost anywhere, creating a "big brother" machine to stamp out all dissent.

In its neurotic need to know and control everything, the Stasi

implicated many thousands over 40 years, tainting and warping large sections of East German society.

Operatives posed as waiters, mechanics, Jehovah's witnesses — whatever was needed to watch, listen and report.

Suspects were rated in a 101-point personality profile including assessment of body language and sexual tastes.

With typical German thoroughness that grew obsessive as discontent rose in the 1980s, they grilled the friends, neighbours, colleagues and relatives of suspects.

General Heinz Engelhardt, last man to head the agency before it was disbanded this year, said the Stasi was "present in practically every branch of society".

Rooms where agents steamed open, read, and resealed the mail had to be repapered every six months because of damp. Warehouses bulged with gifts plundered from parcels from the West

which never reached their destinations.

Resident foreigners were prime targets. If their telephones broke down, there would be no need to call the repairman; he simply showed up, as if clairvoyant.

Cameras filmed all traffic on transit routes over East German soil to the West. Agents looked for secret contacts.

Stasi workers were well-paid, ran their own vacation hotels, and got better cars. They chose to join the strong in a society split into the bunters and the hunted.

But as unrest grew more vocal, Stalinist leaders grew more afraid, pressing the Stasi for scapegoats. In a cut-throat race to meet raised quotas, officers hired ever more informers and logged thousands of "meets".

Yet tons of files seized in East Germany's revolution showed they were choking on information, with no criteria for analysis other than mounting paranoia.

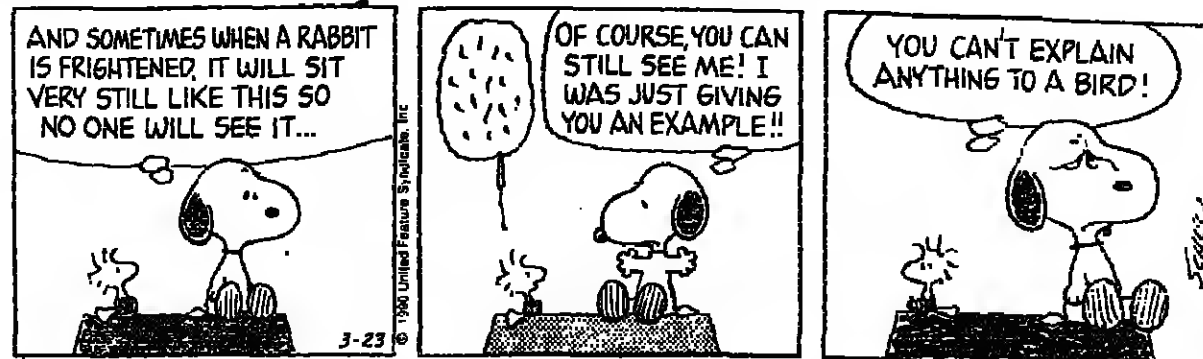
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Awareness of importance of archaeology is not enough for preservation

Following is the second and the final part of a lecture delivered by **Ghazal Samad** at the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman. The first part appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.

THERE IS a deep awareness that antiquities are of great importance to Jordan, as it consists the main source for tourist attraction, which is an important source of national income. In spite of that, there are major problems relating to the preservation of antiquities which are not addressed:

1. There is no law on land use planning.
2. There is no comprehensive inventory of sites available to planning and development agencies, to eliminate accidental or intentional destruction.
3. Most sites are privately owned; owners have no clear understanding of their responsibilities for antiquities on their property.
4. Antiquities are seen by land owners as hindrance to development. Thus clandestine destruction is the rule.
5. The existing antiquities laws are inadequately enforced and implemented. Some governmental departments such as municipal affairs and waqf cause a lot of destruction as they do not abide by antiquities law.
6. Some sites are damaged by actions inside them or by actions around them, as they damage the environment of the site. Examples: (Amman Nymphaeum and Citadel; Jerash Hippodrome; and Qastal).
7. Exposed archaeological remains are subject to severe erosion through natural process; such as pollution; road and development projects beside them. Lack of permanent conservation and ongoing maintenance caused continuous decline in the sites.
8. Treasure hunters are causing a lot of damage to archaeological sites. Excavations should be limited to scientific purposes only and should be carried out by experienced scholars. Existing antiquities in private hands should be registered and catalogued. Outstanding items should be made public property. Acknowledgement to donors could contribute to the success of this project.
9. Archaeological sites are littered with trash made by tanks. In some cases like (Umm Qais) soldiers excavated sites in search for treasures. Use of archaeological sites for military camping should be stopped (Amman Citadel).

Solutions: Recommendations adopted by the sub-committee for solving the problems pertaining to heritage "resources."

Realistic alternatives

- A. Archaeological remains:
 1. General. The following recommendations aim to promote the preservation and enhancement of the most significant archaeological remains in the country to serve the following purposes:
 - i) to maximise their potential as important visual elements in Jordan's urban and rural landscapes;
 - ii) to make them an effective educational and recreational resources.
 - iii) to make them effective attractions for domestic and international tourism.
 - 2) Acquisition. Many important archaeological sites are already owned by the Department of Antiquities. But others, like 'Ain Ghazal, Basta and Ayla, remain in private hands. We recommend that a list of sites designated for purchase by or on behalf of the Department of Antiquities be completed.

It is also important for the authorities to acquire or impose zoning restrictions on land adjacent to important heritage sites to prevent the creation of an unattractive setting for these sites. Obvious examples are the slopes of the Amman Citadel (where the municipality plan has made such provisions), and the land in the wadi between the Petra Rest House and the Siq entrance.

Land may also need to be acquired, or rules of ingress and egress applied, in order to provide public access, an adequate visual setting and visitor facilities. 3) Development of archaeological sites for tourist and recreational purposes. We recommend that from among those sites listed as of "outstanding national importance," a list of sites be drawn up to be designated for development. The following general guide lines should be applied to such site development:

- i). The Departments of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the proper government ministry should aim to develop these sites as local, district or national parks. The antiquities should be restored to a high standard and adequate excavation carried out.
- ii). Sites should have durable signs with appropriate information, be well lit for night use where feasible, and be adequately hot attractively secured.
- iii). Sufficient land should be acquired to provide an adequate visual setting, to allow appropriate landscaping and visitor facilities, to provide public access, and permit additional excavation.
- iv). The antiquities and surrounding areas should be well maintained and supervised to prevent vandalism, garbage accumulation and further decay of the antiquities.

Environmental policy

Planning and zoning control. We recommend that the areas around sites "of outstanding national importance" be subject to special planning and zoning controls to ensure that new developments do not detract from the visual amenity of these monuments (e.g., this could have prevented the placement of massive electric transformers in the visual field of Qasr Khirana).

Such controls would both protect important views and regulate activities and structures that may damage or be incompatible with the archaeological remains. (e.g., the construction of a high rise hotel to overshadow the Temple of Artemis at Jerash; the construction of a cement factory anywhere downwind of Qasr Amra).

Economic policy

We recommend the broader application of the principle of compensation for loss of value and income due to the confiscation of the zoning restrictions on private property.

Legislative initiatives

a. Archaeological remains.

The existing legislation should be extended in order to ensure satisfactory preservation. The following provisions should be strictly enforceable:

- i). That official permission need be obtained from the Department of Antiquities for any works that may affect archaeological remains; other government departments and public utilities would be bound by this.
- ii). That remains of outstanding national importance (category 1 above) be designated as national heritage sites and be subject to special planning control.
- iii). That substantial penalties for damage to monuments be imposed.
- iv). That compensation allowing for the loss of development potential be paid to owners if works affecting an ancient monument are refused.
- v). That development works be delayed officially to allow access for documentation and rescue archaeology if significant finds are unearthed, with compensation for loss of income due to the delay.
- vi). That the authority and manpower of the Department of Antiquities be made sufficient to carry out the provisions of the law.

Public awareness

i). Education

The key to preservation of the archaeological heritage is popular interest and support. To achieve this it is necessary to begin teaching the significance and meaning of the archaeological remains at an early age.

We recommend that units on the archaeology of Jordan be made a regular part of the required curriculum in the public and private schools of Jordan, and that teachers be fully prepared to present these units to their pupils.

In order to achieve this last, we recommend further that archaeology be taught in the teacher training programmes of the universities and community colleges. The goals of such preparation should be to make teachers familiar enough with Jordan's archaeological heritage to enable them to prepare and teach units on it. Included in this should be familiarity with major archaeological sites and museums so that the teachers could function as informed guides during class visits to places like Jerash, Pella and Petra, and the various museums.

We recommend that, in parallel to the teaching of archaeology, the teaching of the traditional heritage be included in the teacher training colleges and in the public and private schools. Teaching children about traditional town and village



Antiquities are seen by landowners as hindrance to development; thus clandestine destruction is the rule. In other cases adjoining private-owned lands are used for residential buildings, thus undermining chances of enhanced excavations (file photos)



architecture, and introducing especially city children to village landscape would do much towards building a sense of the uniqueness and preciousness of Jordan's heritage. Such education would provide a concrete background to the meaning of being Jordanian, and would associate a love for the traditional with self-worth.

ii). Cultural resource management.

We recommend that the cultural resource management programme of the Department of Antiquities be used to promote communication cooperation and coordinated advance planning between the various national ministries and departments, and various private and international agencies responsible for development.

We recommend too that private societies like the Friends of Archaeology be encouraged to play a role in promoting this cooperation and coordination.

Finance

- i) To interest and encourage donors it is necessary to show

them that Jordan respects its antiquities and takes care of them properly. When, historical sites are neglected and neglected, neither local nor foreign donors will be interested in giving money. It is therefore essential that the conservation measures outlined in this document be taken seriously from the start, in order to attract seriously interested donors. This means controlling destructive behaviour and treasure hunting excavations as well as keeping sites clean and preventing the construction of ugly buildings next to them.

- ii). A national society for the conservation of archaeology and heritage could play an important role in the dissemination of information, coordination between government agencies and the promotion of interest among international agencies.
- iii). Responsible agencies should prepare conservation plans for important sites, with the funding estimates spelled out, including the share of local contributions for presentation to prospective donors.
- iv). Promotion of local donations. An already existing interest among local donors can be increased by acknowledging their generosity, extending expressions of appreciation, and inform them of progress on the projects to which they have donated. Even the limited giving of local donors of small means will provide important incentives for giving among large foreign donor agencies.

- v). We recommend the pooling of donations in the national fund for the conservation of archaeology and heritage, to be coordinated by the Department of Antiquities. Several sources for financial help are:

- 1) Jordanian government and official bodies.
- 2) Foreign governments and their agencies.
- 3) Jordanian universities and institutes (in the form of allocations to excavations and museum).
- 4) Foreign universities, institutes and expeditions.
- 5) Financial and commercial companies, local and foreign.
- 6) Local and international societies (FOA, ACOR, RSCN).
- 7) Visitor fees from tourists to archaeological sites be allocated to the conservation of archaeological sites.

A glimpse into Gibran the legend

By Sana Abu Hurwaj
Special to the Jordan Times

A LIVE dialogue on Khalil Gibran, his works and character and his life and traces on modern literature was held recently by several professors of literature in Jordan, Egypt and Bahrain.

Gibran Khalil Gibran, the legendary author of the "Prophet," was born in 1883 in the Lebanese village of Bsherr. He left obvious marks on Arab literature of the 20th century as well as to some extent on Western-American literature.

At the age of 12, Gibran migrated with his family to Boston in the U.S. It was there where he began a career that launched a revolution in Arab letters from American shores. In 1920, Gibran gathered 10 emigre Syrian writers in New York City (among them Amin Rihani, Michael Naime and Ila Abu Madi) into the "Pen League" (Al Rabitah Al Qalamiyah) in order to lift Arabic literature from a quagmire of stagnation and imitation, and as Naime put it, "infuse a new life into its veins so as to make of it an active force in the building up of the Arab Nation."

The Pen League changed Arab literature forever and caused the distinguished critic and anthologist, Salma Jayyusi, to call Gibran "the greatest literary figure in Arab letters during the first three decades of this century."

Gibran died in 1931 in New York of cirrhosis of the liver and tuberculosis. On the occasion of the 100 anniversary of his birth, funds were raised and the U.S. Congress passed a bill designating a two-acre plot of land across from the vice-president's residence in Washington, D.C., as a national memorial garden for Gibran, symbolising his dream and prediction in his well known novel the Prophet.

The live dialogue involved on the U.S. side Gregory Orfalea, an Arab-American writer who is the author of "Before the Flames" and a collection of poems called Grapeleaves. With the aid of a Syrian writer, Orfalea translated some of Gibran's works, about Gibran's character and his influence on Eastern and Western literature.

Professor Abdul Rahman Yaghi from University of Jordan started the dialogue by asking about the way that Gibran affected Arab writers, as Gibran is regarded as the leader of modern Arab awakening or revival. Orfalea answered by saying that most of modern Arab writers owe Gibran a favour for showing them the way to freedom of expression in their writings.

Zakaria Anani, professor of Arab literature at Alexandria University, asked how the Americans see Gibran, as a Westerner who writes in two languages, or as an Easterner who writes in English?

Orfalea said the Americans in general appreciate so much the spirit of work in every person regardless of his/her

origin.

According to Orfalea: Gibran beveled in work and brought new aspects in his character to the West which were quite new to the Americans. Gibran brought with him his Eastern-rooted qualities and culture, and religious sensation that is strongly felt in most of his work. He expressed his longing and homesickness as can be seen in his poem "Dead are My People" in which he says:

Gone are my people, but I exist yet.

Lamenting them in my solitude...

What can an exiled son do for his

Starving people, and of what value

Unto them is the lamentation of an

Absent poet?

Asked by a professor of literature in Bahrain about the contrast of Gibran's reaction towards Christianity as he had provided the West with the spiritual side of religious life while in other writings attacked Christianity and tried out a revolution on earth, Orfalea said: "Gibran's contradictory behaviour towards religion is due to his reaction towards the suffering of humans. We see him attacking the oppressive churchmen who use people for their own interests, and criticising those people who surrender and give in to them. We also see him adoring nature and love in his romantic novel The Broken Wings. Gibran had always been for the poor and the oppressed and that's why he had gained such popularity among his readers."

Dr. Nabil Sbarif, a professor of English literature at University of Jordan, asked why Gibran took his place only recently in the mainstream American literature. Orfalea said Gibran had been the victim of the different directions in the history of American literature. "There is no criticism of Gibran's work among American critics as they see him as a Syrian poet whose philosophy can not be understood by the West or applied on the Western thinking."

Asked about the role of women in Gibran's life, Orfalea pointed out that Gibran was a defeated lover, and this is obvious in his poem "The Defeated." Gibran never got married and his romantic relation with Lebanese writer Mary/Mai Ziada was only through letters. However, women in Gibran's life are still a mystery. Orfalea believes that Gibran cared about his freedom more than his love.

Gibran was also interested in music and painting. Orfalea was asked to what extent these talents left their marks on Gibran's writings, and he replied: "When Gibran was interested in music and painting in his early life, he didn't speak English. But we find his interest in music revealed in his poems, and his interest in painting revealed in his prose. His prose and poetry appear to be musical portraits, and that gave Gibran's works their distinguished style."

U.S. Senate

(Continued from page 1)

Muslims and Arabs. A foreign ministry statement said the resolution was "a null one which ignores the rights of the Palestinian and Arab peoples and challenges the sentiments of the entire Muslim World."

It urged the world to condemn the resolution. The Bush administration assured Egypt Monday that it still standing firm on its refusal to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Foreign Minister Ezzat Abdel Meguid said.

Abdul Meguid made the statement after meeting in Cairo with U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner. "We have obtained an assurance that the American administration's position on Jerusalem has not changed," Abdul Meguid told reporters.

He said Egypt was also assured that last week's resolution by the U.S. Senate as only reflecting the position of some Senate members.

Abdul Meguid criticised the Senate decision saying it would have been better if the Senate refrained from dealing with such subjects at this time in this way. Wisner emphasised that the U.S. government had not changed position on Jerusalem and that it will do its best for pushing forward the Middle East peace process.

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FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 27, 1990

Answer: He's supposed to be working at the dock for pay, but he prefers to do this—"FREE" LOAD



Karpov contemplating

Karpov qualifies for world chess title

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union beat Jan Timman of the Netherlands to win the world candidates chess final Monday.

Karpov, 39, will now meet fellow countryman and title holder Gary Kasparov in the world chess championship to be played in Lyons, France in October.

Karpov won the deciding ninth game Monday in 56 moves to score 6.5 points against Timman's 2.5 points. Under the rules, the winner is the first player to reach 6.5 points.

One point is awarded for a win and half a point for a draw. The match began March 8. It saw four wins and five draws in the scheduled 12-game match.

In today's game, Karpov survived a tense time scramble before the 40th move. He completed the allocated amount of moves with seconds to go before a forfeit.

Karpov then demonstrated his mastery in the end game, going for a win from the 46th move when many experts believed he would go for a draw.

Douglas vs. King: The lawsuit of the decade

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Heavyweight boxing champion James Buster Douglas said Saturday he's willing to try to settle the lawsuits pending between his camp and boxing promoter Don King — but not in a public arena.

At a raucous news conference at a hotel on the city's north side, Douglas said to shout to be heard as he said he would meet with King in private in an effort to iron out their differences. About 120 people jammed the small hotel conference room, only about 120 of them reporters.

Asked by King, who had not been expected to attend, if they could meet, Douglas said, "were going to do that."

"But not in public," he added. "I don't talk my business in public."

King, Douglas and his manager John Johnson, and rival casino owners Donald Trump and Steve Wynn are involved in a multitude of court actions related to future Douglas fights.

King and Trump say they have first rights to the champion's next bout and want it to be a rematch with Mike Tyson, whom Douglas knocked out in their title bout in Tokyo Feb. 10. Douglas, Johnson and Wynn want Douglas's earlier contracts with King to be voided.

Outside the room before the news conference, King had grabbed Johnson in a bear hug, shouting, "just like it used to be, just like it used to be. We're going to make it happen again."

He said he came to make a deal to try to put aside "our differences and ask for forgiveness if I did anything wrong. And if I did anything right in the five years that I supported Johnny and Buster, then let's keep doing it."

The car for success — I'm the one that pumped the fuel in the car to keep it running until we got to the successful place," King said.

But King's talk of a deal impressed few in Douglas camp. He hasn't come to John Johnson, he hasn't called John Johnson. He's been telling everyone else that," Johnson said.

"Don King is a jerk," said Douglas's uncle and trainer, J.D. McCauley. "You know what his deal should be? Get his butt back on that plane and head back home. That's his deal."

"My opinion of Don King? leech. The word is leech."

A radio interview during King's visit to Columbus prompted speculation that King, who is black, was trying to use racism to drive a wedge between Johnson, who is white, and Douglas, who is black. King ostensibly was in town to celebrate the birthday of Douglas's father, Bill.

But King and the host of the call-in show on Wcix maintained it had been callers who raised the question of racism. From all indications, it doesn't look like he's a racist to me, said Ella Coleman. She said King was on her show, express yourself, for one hour.

Johnson opened the news conference with a statement underscoring the racial equality in the coach boxing team.

"I do agree with Mr. King, there is prejudice in our world. ... but there's none of it here, among this group of people. And we will not allow anyone to challenge us on the people that we are," Johnson said.

The first question launched a shouting match between King and Douglas camp.

Douglas was asked if he was angered by allegations of racism. Before he could finish answering, King — who was not seated at the dais — rose and shouted, "who called him racist? who called him racist? Stop it right there. ... John has never been called a racist."

The news conference degenerated as the onlookers began heckling Douglas, peppering him with questions. Many of the questioners wanted to know why Douglas was not as accessible as he had been before he won the title.

Douglas said he was trying to meet as many requests for interviews and publicity appearances as possible, but said, "I'm only one man."

I can't split myself into 20 buster Douglases. I'm only one person."

He noted he was not used to dealing with notoriety, having left Columbus for Tokyo a virtual unknown and assumed to be an easy target for Tyson.

"Now it's, we want you, we want you, we want you, we want you," he said.

Efforts to return the discussion to business were sidetracked again and again as King or other audience members shouted Douglas down.

Despite repeated requests that he sit down and be quiet, King rose to argue that he acknowledged Douglas's victory immediately after the fight; that his sides willingly surrendered Tyson's championship belt; and that he did not try to delay or avert unified recognition of the victory by filing a protest over an alleged long count after Douglas floored Tyson.

King and McCauley engaged in toe-to-toe again and again as King or other audience members shouted Douglas down.



Agassi wins a new title

Agassi downs Edberg

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (R) — American Andre Agassi won his second title of the year by soundly defeating third seed Stefan Edberg in the final of the \$2.55 million International Players Tennis championships Sunday.

Despite a third set lapse, the fifth-seeded Agassi outplayed the third-ranked Edberg for most of the two hour seven minute contest to score a victory worth \$179,000.

"I played well today but I think we've seen a better Stefan Edberg in the past," Agassi said after his win over the highest-ranked player he has ever beaten in a final.

Edberg, who beat Agassi in the final at Indian Wells earlier this month, earned \$94,000 as runner-up but would have taken over the world number two ranking from Boris Becker with a victory Sunday.

"I started slow and I never really got into the match," the former Wimbledon champion

said of the costly defeat. "I just couldn't get to the ball."

Agassi took charge of the match from the outset as he drilled groundstrokes with precision and power that consistently caught lines and corners and kept Edberg away from the net.

The American passed Edberg with ease to reach 4-0 and the Swede was unable to hold serve until the first game of the second set.

Agassi broke Edberg for 2-1 to claim the advantage he would need to take the second set and as he continued to control points, Edberg grew more demoralized and error-prone.

A concentration lapse early in the third set by Agassi allowed Edberg a brief moment to shine and after the Swede took a 4-0 lead, Agassi appeared give up on the set.

But it was Edberg who became lethargic in the fourth set as the American kicked his game back into high gear.

Edberg's serve and volley game

collapsed in the final set as he double faulted at break point in both the third and fifth games to give Agassi a 4-1 lead.

The Swede staved off two match points at 5-1 with an ace and a service winner, but Agassi held his next serve on his fourth match point with a forehand crosscourt pass that left Edberg lunging at air.

"I think me playing well magnified that he was playing a little tentative," said Agassi, who won his first title of the year last month in San Francisco. "He made a few mistakes and I capitalized on it."

Edberg blamed some of his problems on poor footwork.

"My main problem was I was a little too slow and in tennis the most important thing is moving your feet. Everybody can hit the ball but it's getting to it at the right time and I really wasn't there today."

Ferrari all set for Imola homecoming

SAO PAULO (R) — Alain Prost's victory in Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix has set up the revived Ferrari team for a glorious homecoming next month

when the formula one circus moves to Europe and the San Marino grand prix at Imola.

After suffering grimly in the season opening United States

grand prix in Phoenix two weeks ago when both of their cars failed to finish, Ferrari responded in brilliant style.

Prost claimed his 40th career win and his British team mate Nigel Mansell finished fourth. "We had a bad time in Phoenix," said Prost. "But that is behind us now and we are really looking forward to racing at Imola."

"Our only problem has been that we have not been fast enough in qualifying and if we want to win the world championship we shall have to improve on that."

"But we shall have a new engine and a new chassis ready for Imola so I think we can improve. This weekend we were very competitive in race trim and with full tanks, but not when we were qualifying."

Prost, delighted with his record sixth win in Brazil, said he now relished the opportunity of scrapping with his former employers McLaren for the championship. "McLaren have always been

very good at Imola and very successful there. We shall have to try very hard to match them. I think they still have a very small advantage on power, but our new engine will help."

McLaren managing director Ron Dennis was clearly unhappy at the way in which his top driver Ayrton Senna lost his lead when he was in collision with Satoru Nakajima's Tyrrell as he tried to overtake him.

Senna, desperately keen to win in front of his home crowd, re-

quired a long pit stop to have his nose cone and front wing replaced.

Dennis said tersely after the race: "We may have lost, but we weren't beaten."

For Dennis, it had been a frustrating weekend in which he attracted further controversy and also escalated his own private feud with Ferrari and their management by making allegations about the way in which the Italian team had persuaded his former chief engineer Steve Nichols to leave McLaren for Ferrari.

Officials investigate

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — The bell had just gone for the start of the third and final round when boxer Geoff McCreesh saw another fight erupt just outside the ring.

He couldn't resist it. McCreesh leaped into the front row of the seats to join in the brawl.

There was a disturbance going on in the crowd and the next thing, he just dived straight over

out-of-ring incident

the ropes and into the public at ringside, said Peter Blenkinsopp, secretary of the Midlands Division of Britain's amateur boxing association. I've never seen anything like it.

ABA officials began an investigation Monday into what prompted the second embarrassing conclusion to a British bout in six months.

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

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♠ 10 6 5 3
♥ A 7
♦ A K 7 5 4 2
♣ 7

WEST
♠ K 8 2
♥ 10 9 6 4
♦ Q 7 10
♣ 8 6

EAST
♠ Q 9 4
♥ Q 8 5 3
♦ 9 6
♣ A 10 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A J 7
♥ K 2
♦ 8 3
♣ K Q J 4 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
When you have two suits you can establish, how do you determine which is the right one to tackle? Quite often, counting your tricks will give you the answer.

The auction was simple enough. North saw no reason to introduce his weak spade suit, especially with such a fine six-card minor, so South simply bid what he thought the side's combined assets would make. West led the jack of hearts. Assuming you were declarer, which minor suit would you have gone af-

ter at the second trick?
To arrive at the right decision, all you have to do is count your tricks. On top there are five fast tricks. Since you have to surrender a trick to set up diamonds, that line increases your total to only eight, and by then the enemy would have their heart suit established.

The count of your possible winners reveals you need at least one club trick to fulfill your contract. Therefore, you should win the opening heart lead in dummy and lead a club.

Assume your king of clubs loses to the ace. The defenders would then force out your remaining stopper, and you would have to rely on an even club split to bring home your game.

Where you gain is on those occasions when East holds the ace of clubs, even if the suit is divided 4-2. If East rises with the ace of clubs, you would score five club tricks and five others for an overtrick, so that defender has to follow low. Your king wins and, with a sixth trick in the bank, you then turn your attention to diamonds. Since the odds on a 3-2 diamond split are better than 3-3 clubs, you immediately concede a diamond and, when that suit behaves, you score a well-earned nine tricks.

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Democratic Forum leads in Hungary election tally

BUDAPEST (R) — The centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) led the field Monday as votes were counted in the country's first free elections for four decades. But the complex voting system left the eventual winner in doubt.

Forum leader Jozsef Antall said his party was on course for victory. "I think the HDF can qualify as the winner of the elections if the trend continues," he told a news conference.

But the Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats, which partial official results put it just behind the forum in a two-horse race, said it had fuller figures showing the two parties neck and neck.

The counting of Sunday's vote, delayed during the night by failures on overloaded lines linking the computer network, plodded on through Monday as Hungarians waited to see what government would replace the ruling ex-Communists.

Electors voted both for individual constituency candidates and for party lists in their local country.

With just over half the list votes counted from the first round of the two-stage election, the election commission said the forum had 24.53 per cent in Hungary's 20 counties.

These figures gave 20.63 per cent to the Alliance, 12.87 to the Independent Smallholders' Party, 10.06 to the Socialist Party — which succeeded the Communist

Party last October — and 8.36 to the Youth Party Fidesz.

But Alliance spokesman predicted victory for their party in the constituency vote, which will account for 176 of the 386 seats in the national parliament.

They said they would do particularly well in the capital where they claimed a lead in 10 out of 12 constituencies.

Few candidates looked likely to score the 50 per cent vote needed for election in the first round, although Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, running as a Socialist-backed independent, was one early outright winner.

One election official predicted that only 100 or 120 seats would be decided from the county and constituency voting Sunday, opening the way for vigorous wheeling and dealing over who will back whom in the second round on April 8.

Smaller parties like the Smallholders will have to decide whether to make pacts with the Forum, a Nationalist and Christian Democratic Party, or the Alliance, a more Western oriented group founded by former dissidents.

"Naturally there are talks

going on in such a situation, and these talks are very serious," Smallholders National Secretary Vilmos Bereczky said.

The outcome of the talks is likely to carry over into the shape of the coalition which seems to be the only prospect for Hungary's future government.

Some analysts saw a grand coalition between the two main parties, separated by differences of background and temperament more than policy, as the only solution.

But Alliance candidate Matyas Eorsi said: "If we can avoid a coalition with the Forum we will, and we think they think the same way. If neither is able then perhaps we shall sit down with them. It's like a forced marriage. Sometimes you can't avoid it."

Both parties, as well as the Smallholders and Fidesz, have ruled out an alliance with the Socialists.

The Socialists, campaigning as a moderate left-wing party making a clean break with the past, headed for a predictable defeat, though one less crushing than forecast by some polls.

Socialist State Minister Imre Pozsgay, stung by what he sees as popular ingratitude for his role in dismantling the Communist monopoly and by a dismal third place in his Sopron constituency, promised firm opposition in parliament.

ANC suspected of attacks ahead of peace talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Rocket grenades tore into local council offices in Soweto Sunday and South African police said they suspected African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas launched the attack.

Police spokesman Major Reg Crews said Monday two Soviet-made RPG-7 grenades were used in the attack late Sunday which broke almost 100 windows in the building and damaged a nearby house.

"It is only the ANC that so far has been using this type of weapon," Crews said.

About an hour after the attack three limpet mines damaged a power station in nearby Johannesburg.

No one was injured in either attack, made on the day exiled ANC commanders were due to arrive in South Africa to prepare for talks on how to achieve power-sharing between black and white.

The arrival was postponed at the last minute because, according to ANC sources in Lusaka, the group was not certain that guerrilla commanders were assured of immunity from arrest.

The 19-strong delegation was to have included Chris Hani, chief of staff of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) and its political commissar Steve Tshwete.

The government last month lifted its 30-year-old ban on the ANC, the main organisation opposing white minority domination, but continues to prosecute members for politically-motivated crimes such as bombings.

Hani has become a hero among militant black youths and he is well placed to help end persistent bloody fighting between black factions which have ignored peace calls from older ANC leaders such as Deputy President Nelson Mandela.

On Sunday seven people died in this fighting. They included four shot dead in one clash in Natal province where supporters of the ANC confront backers of the Zulu tribal-based Inkatha Movement in a power struggle for control of the townships.

The latest bombing could be a demonstration that the ANC, which is calling for South African security forces to recognise a formal ceasefire and bold direct talks with its military wing, is capable of effective actions.

The rocket launcher posed a threat to armoured vehicles patrolling Soweto and other black townships, Crews said.

Australia's Labour Party forecast to gain 2-seat majority in polls

CANBERRA (Agencies) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Labour Party was forecast Monday to win a parliamentary majority of at least two seats in a cliffhanger election.

But the narrow majority would make governing tough during Hawke's fourth successive term.

Hawke, in power for seven years, will remain caretaker prime minister until postal and preferential votes from six marginal electorates are tallied this week following Saturday's poll. A final result is expected Wednesday or Thursday.

Final voting was taking place Monday in the opposition-held North Queensland outback electorate of Kennedy after a tropical storm caused the ballot to be suspended at the weekend with the Labour challenger leading.

Liberal leader Andrew Peacock, who held a meeting of the party leadership Monday, is clinging to the hope the opposition coalition can still win. But he said a Labour victory was probable.

Both sides agree there is a chance the 148-seat House of Representatives (lower house) will be deadlocked at 73 seats each to Labour and the Liberal/National Coalition.

This would leave the balance of power held by independents — ex-mayor of North Sydney Ted Mack and environmentalist Helen Caldicott, who looks likely to unseat national leader Charles Blunt in the New South Wales county seat of Richmond.

Both have pledged to sway

politicians to vote according to their conscience rather than on party lines.

Lauchlan McIntosh, executive director of the Australian Mining Industry Council, said a hung parliament or a narrow Labour win could stall government decisions and undermine economic reforms.

"If needed reforms are going to be put off because of a return of protectionist views among independents, for example, we are going to fall back on the days when people did nothing," he told reporters.

Labour is so far assured of at least 71 seats against 67 for the coalition and one for Mack. Forecasters Rod Cameron and Malcolm MacKerras see a Labour win.

"I think it is fairly clear that Labour will have a majority of two, possibly four," Cameron told reporters.

"I think the outcome will be 75 (for Labour), 71 (for the coalition) plus two," MacKerras said, adding he believed Labour could govern successfully with a two-seat majority.

The opposition can debate on a motion of "no confidence" and then call a vote but a federal government has not been removed that way in recent times, MacKerras said.

"Discipline in Labour ranks is pretty tight. They just have to make sure everyone is there for the vote."

"But if a sitting member of parliament resigns, resigns or dies, a by-election for his seat could pose real problems for

Labour. There have been five in the past three years.

"If Labour loses a by-election and there is a hung parliament its prospects of seeing out the full three-year term are not very good at all," said Ian MacAllister, a political scientist at the Australian National University.

News reports said Monday Hawke appears likely to win a slim parliamentary majority.

Hawke said his forces would have enough seats in parliament to govern after Saturday elections. But his conservative opponent, Andrew Peacock, refused to concede defeat.

Hawke predicted Sunday that his party would finish with a one-seat majority in the 148-seat House of Representatives. Labour has governed for the past term with a 35-seat majority.

Hawke said that, according to his projections, even in a worst case scenario Labour would come away with 73 seats, and Peacock's coalition.

The flooding in Kennedy still kept some voters from the polling booths Monday. As a result, the outcome from the area wasn't expected to be known until Wednesday, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. said.

Still, newspapers said it appeared that Hawke, 60, would be able to lead the Labour Party to a record, fourth straight term.

Hawke campaigned on his record of economic reform, while Peacock tried to use the incumbent prime minister record against him. Peacock blamed Hawke for Australia's high interest rates and foreign debt.

Modigliani painting hits record price at Paris auction

PARIS (R) — Amedeo Modigliani's "The Pretty Shopkeeper" was sold for 63 million francs (\$10.9 million) at auction, breaking the world record for a work by the Italian artist.

The previous record was set at a London sale at Sotheby's last November, when Modigliani's "The Girl in the Black Apron" went for 49.2 million francs (\$8 million). The "Pretty Shopkeeper" is part of a collection of major art works belonging to the Parisian couple Lucien and Marcelle Bourdon, up for sale at the Drouot Auction House. The sale was conducted simultaneously in Tokyo and Paris by satellite linkup.

Singer to donate concert proceeds to flood victims

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — Hank Williams Jr. will donate proceeds from a concert to help flood victims in southeast Alabama, a childhood playground for the Country and Western singer, his manager said.

Merle Kilgore said Wednesday that Williams will donate his concert fee and concession sales from an April 1 concert in Birmingham to the people of Elba. They hope to raise more than \$100,000. Kilgore said. High waters swept away parts of a levee surrounding Elba last weekend and inundated the town. Alabama Governor

Guy Hunt's office will administer the money, Kilgore said. More than 2,000 people evacuated when the town nearly disappeared under water Saturday. Williams' maternal grandfather, Shelton Sheppard, lived in Troy. Williams spent his summers there as a boy. Williams' father was the legendary country singer and songwriter Hank Williams, who died at age 29.

L.A. investigators seek pyromaniac

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 100 of this area's trademark palm trees have caught fire over the last five months, and investigators suspect an arsonist is to blame, officials said. Some of the fires have spread to nearby houses or cars, doing minor damage, said fire battalion chief William Burmester. Burmester said he was worried the consequences of future blazes could be more serious. There is always a danger, even with a guy like this who is not setting large fires, he said. Most of the 104 fires since October have occurred in early evening in the suburbs of Reseda, Canoga Park and Northridge. On several occasions, trash rather than trees was set on fire. The outbreak represents the largest number of apparently related arson fires in history, arson investigators said. No motive has emerged.

Pope inaugurates Vatican exhibition

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has inaugurated a Vatican exhibit on Michelangelo and the restoration of his frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. The exhibit, entitled "Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel — technique, conservation and myth, coincides with the completion of the cleaning of the vaulted chapel ceiling. Pope John Paul said the show allows visitors to evaluate the restoration of a work of art of worldwide importance and value and especially to consider the interest it has for the history of art and world culture.

'Apparitions foretold fall of communism'

PITTSBURGH (AP) — An apparition of the Virgin Mary in Yugoslavia that has drawn millions of believers foretold the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, say participants at conference on visions of the Mother of Jesus. It just seems too coincidental to have her appear and then all of a sudden the Communist regime starts falling apart, said Robert Lacher, 54. The two-day Eastern Regional Conference on Visions of the Virgin Mary started Saturday at Duquesne University. The conference is focusing on the increased number of reported sightings and what believers see as their tie to communists' collapse, sponsors said. The recent spate of visions of Mary and apparitions started in 1981 in the Yugoslavian city of Medjugorje when a group of six youngsters heard her message, said John Okeefe of the Our Lady of Peace Ministries in Pittsburgh.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish Socialists lose majority

MELILLA, Spain (AP) — Spaniards in this North African enclave elected a conservative candidate to the national parliament in a repeat election, leaving the Socialists one seat shy of a majority but still with enough power to govern. The repeat of the October election, which was annulled amid reports of irregularities in several polling places, decided the allotment of the last of 350 seats in Spain's Lower House of parliament. Official provisional results of the vote Sunday in this Spanish enclave on Morocco's Mediterranean coast — a court-ordered repeat of Oct. 29 elections — awarded the Lower House seat at stake to the Popular Party. But Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Socialists still have 175 of 350 deputies in the chamber. A part of Spain since the Spaniards wrested it from the Berbers in 1497, Melilla has some 60,000 residents, one-third of them Muslim. The conservatives had won the Melilla seat in 1986 when many eligible Muslim voters boycotted the elections to pressure the government to extend full Spanish citizenship to all Melilla-born Muslims and to increase spending in the run-down Muslim quarter. Gonzalez is virtually guaranteed to win a parliamentary vote of confidence scheduled for April 5 despite the setback. Only a plurality is needed for his confirmation.

Pravda lashes out at demonstrations

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda lashed out Monday at growing numbers of demonstrations and protests in the Soviet Union, saying they amounted to "legalisation of extremism." The newspaper said this was "one of the most alarming and tense periods in our contemporary history." "Thousands and thousands of honest people take to the streets to say no to the process of accelerating the perestroika, to the development of democracy," Pravda said in a front-page editorial. But we cannot help seeing the other side of it... Protests and demonstrations increasingly become one of the forms of legalising extremism, of further undermining the situation which is complex in itself. Describing the situation as critical, the newspaper assaulted radical reformists as well as fundamentalists, saying they are trying to form organised opposition to the existing structures of state authority and to seize the power by non-constitutional methods. Pravda was especially critical of activists and parliament members who were behind destabilising rallies of Feb. 25, when about 1 million people took to the streets in Moscow and a dozen other cities, demanding swift democratic change.

South Korea, Mongolia to establish ties

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea and Mongolia have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations for the first time in their history. South Korea's Foreign Ministry announced Monday. The accord was signed Monday in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator between South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Lee Kie-Jon and Mongolian First Vice Foreign Minister Yondon. Ministry officials said. Mongolia became the sixth Socialist country to establish formal ties with capitalist South Korea after Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Mongolia maintains diplomatic ties with Communist North Korea. The ministry officials said South Korea and Mongolia also planned to sign agreements to promote trade, economic and technical cooperation and cultural exchanges. They said efforts to set up diplomatic ties between the two countries began in mid-1987 in contacts between South Korean and Mongolian diplomats stationed in Tokyo.

U.S. launches 7th military satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The United States launched the seventh in a series of U.S. Navstar communications satellites aboard a Del. 2 rocket, the air force said. The satellites, designed primarily for use by U.S. and allied military forces, are said by the Pentagon to be capable of pinpointing locations on the ground or at any altitude to within 15 metres regardless of weather conditions. The \$65 million global positioning system satellite was released Sunday into a low Earth orbit and is to be boosted into permanent orbit by ground controllers, the air force said. Plans call for sending up an additional 14 Navstar satellites by 1992, completing an \$8.5 billion communications system which is also available to commercial and civilian subscribers for navigation and communication.

\$23 million stolen from Swiss bank

GENEVA (R) — Four armed men escaped with 35 million Swiss francs (\$23 million) Sunday in Switzerland's biggest bank robbery, police said. The robbers burst into the Union Bank of Switzerland's branch in central Geneva and tied up two guards, a porter and a maintenance worker. They seized keys from the guards and rifled through 10 safes holding notes weighing 200 kilograms in the foreign currency department. No customer safes were broken into. Police said the robbers did not set off the alarm and thus might have had inside knowledge of the bank's security system. A passerby alerted police an hour after the robbery when he looked through a window and saw the workers tied up. One bank worker, who was hit with a pistol butt, was taken to hospital but released after treatment, police said.

Colombian minister quits over drug war

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has resigned in a bitter quarrel over government drug policies and said his departure was a victory for the country's powerful cocaine traffickers.

Lemos, considered Colombia's toughest anti-drug minister, also said President Virgilio Barco had not defended him against allegations that he helped cause Thursday's murder of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo.

Barco named former Attorney General Serpa Uribe to replace Lemos, saying Uribe had a "clear and determined position against drug trafficking and terrorism."

The president thanked Lemos for being "an example of firmness and bravery."

In a two-page letter to Barco, Lemos said he could not continue in office without the support of the president and his government.

"Neither you, nor the government raised your voice to reject these imputations (of his involvement in the assassination), repudiate them and defend a man of good will," he said.

"In certain areas inside the government itself, the attitude in the face of drug trafficking has been changing almost imperceptibly and now it is not the same intransigent and firm policy that it was in December."

"I fear that with my departure from the ministry the drug traffickers and those who help them have obtained a victory," Lemos said.

Colombia has been locked since August in a war with cocaine traffickers in which some 200 people have died.

Jaramillo, candidate of the leftist Patriotic Union (UP), was gunned down by a 16-year-old assassin at Bogota's main airport. Shortly before Jaramillo's murder, Lemos accused the UP of having close links with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, one of the country's three main guerrilla groups.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	03	37	08 46 Cloudy
ATHENS	10	60	25 77 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	10	65	25 77 Cloudy
BANGKOK	27	81	36 97 Clear
Buenos Aires	13	55	26 78 Clear
Cairo	11	52	25 77 Clear
CHICAGO	-01	37	07 46 Clear
DOPENHAGEN	03	37	08 46 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	03	37	08 46 Cloudy
GENEVA	01	34	06 45 Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	20	06 38 Rain
ST. PETERSBURG	11	52	18 64 Clear
LONDON	05	41	11 52 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	12	55	21 70 Cloudy
MADRID	03	45	16 61 Clear
MECCA	22	72	30 86 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-05	27	04 38 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	36	09 48 Clear
NEW DELHI	11	62	27 71 Clear
NEW YORK	02	36	09 48 Clear
PARIS	02	36	10 50 Cloudy
ROME	11	52	19 66 Cloudy
SYDNEY	19	66	26 79 Cloudy
TOKYO	05	41	12 54 Clear
VIENNA	04	36	10 50 Cloudy

M. Indicates missing information.

India's pullout offers new chance for peace or more war in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — A 42-year-old rift between Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority begins a new and possibly less hostile chapter this week with the end of India's pendulum-like intervention in the conflict.

The last Indian soldiers left Sri Lanka's northeastern shores Saturday, ending a 2½-year jungle war against the Tamil guerrilla they once trained.

Now the Sinhalese-dominated government and Tamils seeking an independent nation are reassessing their traditional antagonism. Both sides want to build on the tenuous peace they forged last summer, a peace that grew out of mutual opposition to the Indian presence.

But the durability of their new-found understanding is being questioned.

"I am afraid the peace will break down once the convergence of their aims ends," a Western diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "And the convergence ends when the last Indian soldier steps on a ship for home."

The Tamil-Sinhalese discord, simmering since Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1948, spawned a Tamil insurgency in 1983. It also fuelled an uprising against the government in 1987 by ultranationalist Sinhalese who objected to peace overtures made to the Tamils.

The twin wars have killed at least 17,000 people and brought its tropical island, once famed as a sun-and-sand holiday destination, to the brink of anarchy.

In the Tamil-dominated north and east, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and other Tamil groups launched a guerrilla war, first against the Sri Lankan army and then against the Indian peacekeepers.

Sinhalese radicals and government forces were locked in a grisly battle in the south and centre of the island. Every morning they left bodies of victims in remote villages and along the

coastal highway. The Sinhalese uprising came to a virtual halt in December after most radical leaders were killed by Sri Lankan security forces.

On the Tamil front, the militants and the government reached a rare understanding: Both wanted Indian forces off the island.

"We are both against foreign occupation armies," Ajit Mahataya, the Tigers' second-in-command, told the island, a Colombo newspaper. "This may have helped build up trust that has allowed us to negotiate seriously."

India, encouraged by its own Tamil minority, became involved in the Tamil war for an independent nation soon after it began in 1983. Most Tamil rebel groups, including the Tigers, were based in the southern India city of Madras and were trained in military camps in India.

When the Sri Lankan army stepped repression against the Tamils in 1987, India tried to pressure Colombo into calling a ceasefire.

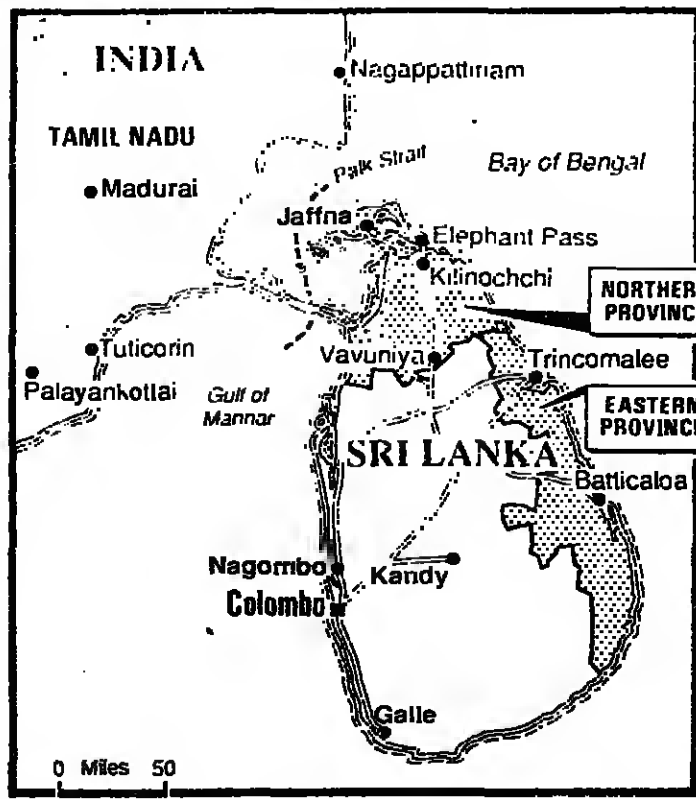
The pressure tactics worked — but with a twist. The Sri Lankan government agreed to give the Tamils limited autonomy but said Indian soldiers must enforce a surrender of arms by the guerrillas.

India, acting on behalf of the Tamils, signed a peace pact with Sri Lanka on July 29, 1987. Two months later the Tigers repudiated the agreement, claiming they were not consulted, and turned their guns on the Indians.

Soon, India was fighting a full-scale war, at one point pitching as many as 125,000 soldiers against an estimated 2,000 Tiger guerrillas and countless part-time fighters.

At least 1,155 Indian soldiers and about 2,000 Tigers were killed in battle.

Last summer, Sri Lanka demanded the Indians leave. The new government, headed by



President Ranasinghe Premadasa, said it could handle the Tamil insurrection.

After initial hesitation, India agreed to go.

"We are leaving with at least part of our job done," an Indian diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "We may not have got an A-plus, but we did not get a C-minus either. We are leaving Sri Lanka a united nation, and that is a tremendous achievement considering the situation in 1987."

Some analysts believe the Sinhalese-Tamil unity will last.

The government of Sri Lanka does not want to go back to square one, said Neelan Tiruchelvam, a Tamil political analyst. Another confrontation will destroy the nation state.

At the root of the problem is the Tigers' demand for independ-

ence, which they have not renounced despite the truce with Colombo.

Talks centre on what kind of power the Tigers will exercise. Government officials say Tamil areas will form a loose federal state with considerable local autonomy.

"The answer is somewhere between a totally independent state and the kind of provincial power we have now," said Bradman Weerakoon, President Premadasa's top adviser.

"I see a superb chance for coming to terms," Weerakoon, a Sinhalese, said. "Previous governments had not completely realised that there were some areas that could be perceived as being discriminatory to the Tamils. This president realises that Tamil demands have some kind of basis."